

NEW YEAR, NEW SCHOOL,  
NEW BEGINNING AT ...

manypathways *No limits*

**Benowa**

STATE HIGH SCHOOL



**EXCELLENCE &  
MERIT ENTRY  
PROGRAM GUIDE**

Respect

Integrity

Diligence

Compassion



# Our purpose has never been clearer

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“Excellence is an art won by training and habituation.

We do not act rightly because we have virtue or excellence, but we rather have those because we have acted rightly. We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act but a habit.”

Aristotle

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Benowa State High School has exemplified distinction in state school education for a period of over 30 years with a proud record of academic, cultural and sporting success.

Our excellence programs play an integral role in this success and have done so now for many years. Over this time we have developed innovative and leading edge programs and assembled expert teaching teams that will support and guide your child to achieve at the highest level.

In an excellence program at Benowa, your child will receive personalised attention. They are expected to set goals at the upper end of their limits and then strive to achieve their fullest potential. A range of supports are in place to help your child achieve their dreams and ambitions as learners and guide them to deal with any of the difficulties that accompany being a teenager.

Each excellence program has established partnerships with leading universities, sporting bodies and performers and artists; locally, nationally and internationally. This will allow your child to have first-hand experiences and benefits that may help them to realise their latent potential.

In this ever competitive global marketplace, the choice of the right school for your child is more important than ever. Benowa has the product, the expertise and evidence of significant success from leading universities in Australia, North America and Europe; Olympic representation and the boardrooms of corporate Australia. Our students profile our commitment to success.

Thank you for considering Benowa State High School for your highly capable young learner. I encourage you to pursue this directory and contact us for more information.



Mark Rickard  
Executive Principal

## Why Merit Entry & Excellence Programs?

Benowa State High School has developed an educational program that enriches the learning of every student and values each student's individual talents. Students with special interests may choose to participate in one of our diverse merit entry programs to challenge them and enable them to make continuous progress in school to become lifelong learners.

Each merit entry program exists for students who are capable and ready to learn at levels of depth and complexity in their chosen area of speciality. As a school, we believe in supporting and cultivating your student's exceptional abilities in their academic, sporting or cultural pursuits. The ultimate goal of all our programs is to maximise each student's potential through enjoyable, exciting and challenging experiences designed to achieve their greatest potential in safe and supportive learning environments.

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## How will a Merit Entry or Excellence Program Benefit My Child?

Research indicates many educational and lifelong advantages for students involved in specialised classes. In summary this includes:

- Higher levels of interest, challenge and enjoyment in their learning, especially in areas of specialisation
  - Significant progress in levels of skills
  - Increased motivation and engagement in learning
  - More frequent and positive interactions with their teachers
  - Increased likelihood for further study after completing Year 12
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## Our Merit Entry Programs

As a broad and comprehensive school, Benowa State High School is pleased to offer six merit entry gifted and talented programs across academic, cultural and sporting areas. With the extensive choice available, students are assured of developing their knowledge and skills in areas in which they have a high level of ability, interest and motivation to learn.

### ACADEMIC

#### **FRENCH IMMERSION EXCELLENCE**

Academic program for outstanding students with a passion for language. Join the World Champion School in French, visit France and be inspired.

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#### **STEM EXCELLENCE**

(Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)  
Calling all future professionals ... be challenged to extend your thinking and hone your skills.

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#### **WALDORF EXCELLENCE**

Creativity and inspiration abound in a program that fosters independent thought and creates opportunities for intelligent sharing of ideas.

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### CULTURAL

#### **DANCE EXCELLENCE**

Inspiring and challenging our talented dancers with a program taught by highly trained and experienced teachers.

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#### **MUSIC EXCELLENCE**

Outstanding instruction through award winning programs to inspire young performers

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### SPORTING

#### **SPORTS EXCELLENCE**

Extending our best athletes to national level through an outstanding program led by highly experienced teachers.

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### INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE

A robust and superior pathway to university for the academic 'all rounder'. Join the only Year 7-12 State High School on the Gold Coast authorised to offer the IB curriculum. For the highly motivated, university bound and future focused.

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## FRENCH IMMERSION EXCELLENCE

### Why choose French Immersion Excellence at Benowa?

- Immersion in French language provides a unique and stimulating learning environment where academically able students are challenged to problem solve, use higher order thinking skills and deduce meaning.
- Maths, Science, History and Geography are studied in French as a part of the French Immersion Program.
- On completion, students will have gained a high level of proficiency in French that will enable them to sit the internationally recognised Diplome d'Etudes en Langue Francaise, allowing entry into offshore universities.
- Exchange programs are offered so students can experience life in a French family and school, and use their French in every day communication.

#### Entry Requirements:

The selection criterion for entry is based on academic performance in Year 6 and an academic entrance exam. Additional documentary evidence that supports academic performance may be provided to assist an application for the French Immersion Program.

#### How to apply:

Application forms are available from the website and at the school office. For all enquiries and further information contact [enrolments@benowashs.eq.edu.au](mailto:enrolments@benowashs.eq.edu.au)

Please note: the school, in consultation with families, reserves the right to withdraw students from this program at any time.



## STEM EXCELLENCE

### Why choose STEM Excellence at Benowa?

- Students are challenged to extend their thinking and hone their skills through a rigorous academic program focussing on problem solving and analytical thinking. Students are taught essential, transferrable skills such as how to create, evaluate and analyse.
- A future in STEM means joining the innovators who designed and built the Hubble telescope, created the internet, built the tallest buildings in the world, challenge our understanding of diseases and discover new medical treatments.
- Students have access to mentoring opportunities and outstanding teachers through an innovative partnership with Griffith University and the Teacher Education Centre of Excellence: STEM.
- Exciting opportunities to travel internationally through the STEM trip to NASA, and support with competitions, and entry to university.

### Entry Requirements:

The selection criterion for entry is based on academic performance in Year 6 and an academic entrance exam. Additional documentary evidence that supports academic performance may be provided to assist an application for the STEM Excellence Program.

### How to apply:

Application forms are available from the website and at the school office. For all enquiries and further information contact [enrolments@benowashs.eq.edu.au](mailto:enrolments@benowashs.eq.edu.au)

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## WALDORF EXCELLENCE

### Why choose Waldorf Excellence at Benowa?

- **Real** – Waldorf is a creative and academic way of learning that extends students in all subjects. The study of English, Maths, History, Geography and the Sciences is complemented by skill development in the arts, public speaking and a strong focus on developing independent thinking.
- **Relevant** – Learning ‘how to think’ will always be relevant. Waldorf students develop a genuine enthusiasm for lifelong learning, allowing them to reach their full potential as scholars, while acting
- **Responsive** – Waldorf’s curriculum encourages students to help shape their world through learning activities that are connected to the real world, inclusive, participatory and socially critical.
- **Relational** – Our teachers engage the heart, hands and head of students in order to foster courage, confidence and resilience.

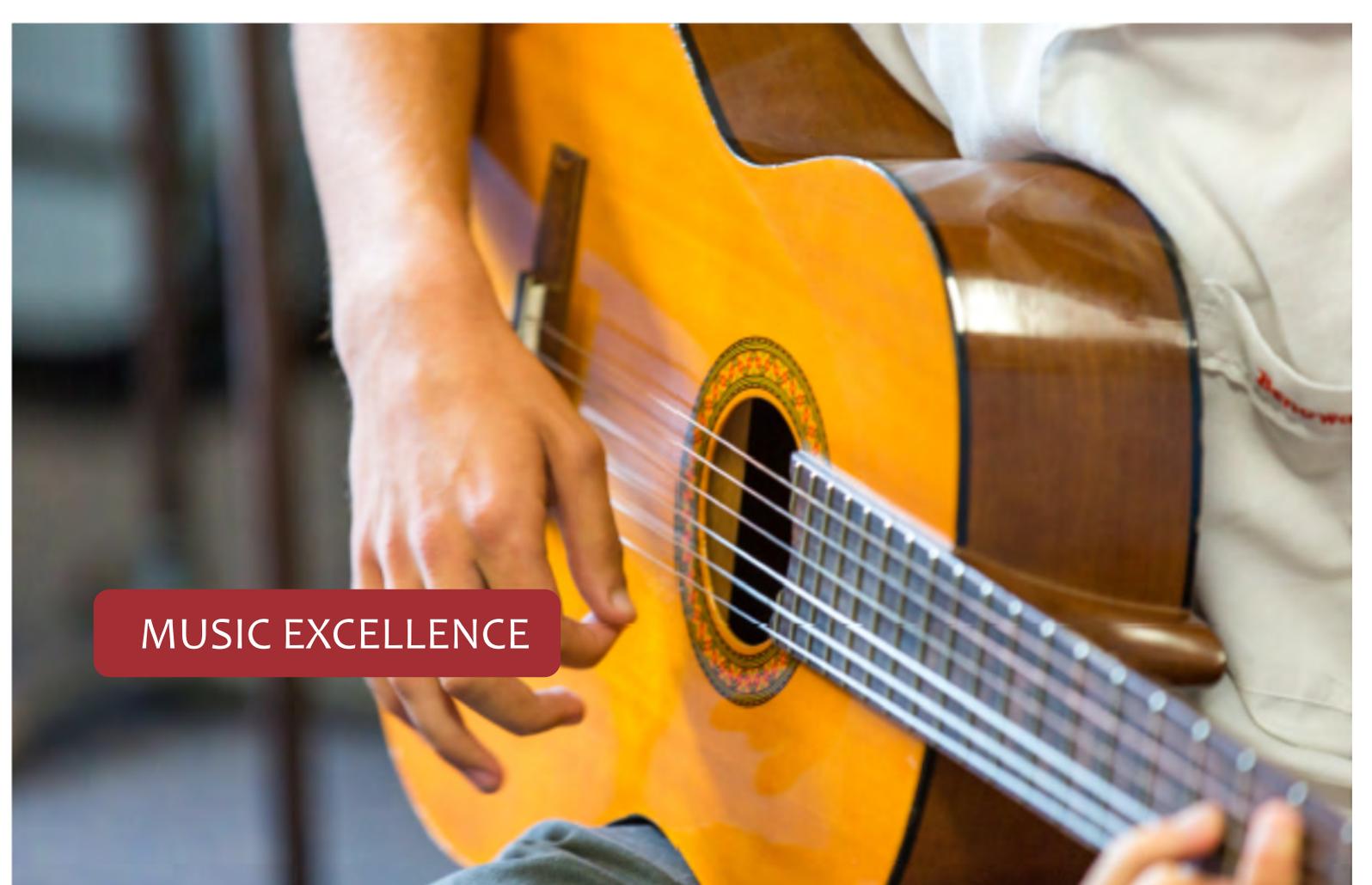
#### Entry Requirements:

The selection criterion for entry is based on academic performance in Year 6 and an academic entrance exam. Additional documentary evidence that supports academic performance may be provided to assist an application for the Waldorf Excellence Program.

#### How to apply:

Application forms are available from the website and at the school office. For all enquiries and further information contact [enrolments@benowashs.eq.edu.au](mailto:enrolments@benowashs.eq.edu.au)

Please note: the school, in consultation with families, reserves the right to withdraw students from this program at any time.



## MUSIC EXCELLENCE

### Why choose Music Excellence at Benowa?

- Benowa offers an award winning program of advanced level training and immersion in music to inspire young performers. Students learn and apply musical concepts through instrumental and vocal performance, composition and aural and visual analysis.
- Technology is utilised to support composition, production and performance, while practical skills focus on guitar, keyboard, voice and an instrument of choice.
- Students attend excursions to live performances, music camp, and showcase performance skills at eisteddfods, interstate and international music festivals.
- Workshops and master classes offered by staff who are industry professionals, including small group lessons with an expert instrumental teacher as part of the Instrumental Music Tuition Program.

### Entry Requirements:

The selection criterion for entry is based on completed application form and audition. Students must exhibit talent and ability along with a strong work ethic, and commitment to excellence in behaviour and effort in all subjects.

### How to apply:

Application forms are available from the website and at the school office. For all enquiries and further information contact [enrolments@benowashs.eq.edu.au](mailto:enrolments@benowashs.eq.edu.au)

Please note: the school, in consultation with families, reserves the right to withdraw students from this program at any time.



## DANCE EXCELLENCE

### Why choose Dance Excellence at Benowa?

- Benowa is a well renowned and respected training ground for quality dance education, with courses designed to empower students to reach their goals and full potential.
- The program provides talented dance students the opportunity to pursue high level training in contemporary, jazz, hip hop and other world dance styles, guided by dedicated, specialist dance teachers.
- Students develop strong technical foundations, self discipline, team work, creativity and confidence through dance education, complemented by a full academic program.
- An atmosphere that supports and encourages students, as they strive to reach technical, creative and scholarly excellence.

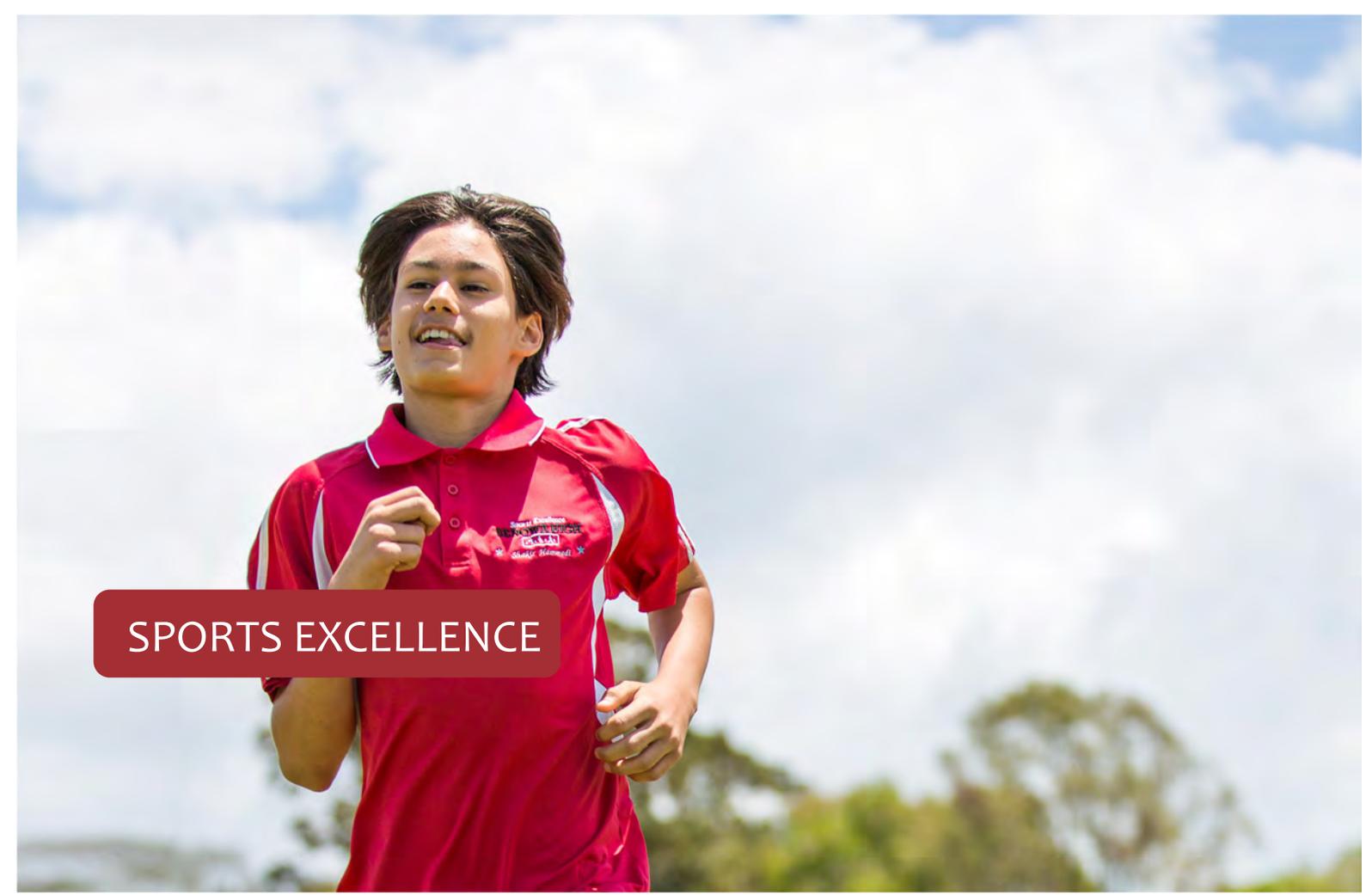
#### Entry Requirements:

The selection criterion for entry is based on the audition. Students must exhibit talent and ability along with a strong work ethic, and commitment to excellence in behaviour and effort in all subjects.

#### How to apply:

Application forms are available from the website and at the school office. For all enquiries and further information contact [enrolments@benowashs.eq.edu.au](mailto:enrolments@benowashs.eq.edu.au)

Please note: the school, in consultation with families, reserves the right to withdraw students from this program at any time.



## SPORTS EXCELLENCE

### Why choose Sports Excellence at Benowa?

- Our Sports Excellence program has a long history of supporting our students to achieve their personal best on and off the sporting field. Alumni achieve international recognition for their sporting achievements through the training and guidance provided to them, and consistently demonstrate the skills, knowledge and behaviour that make us proud. It is this balance that is critical to the ethos of the Sports Excellence program at Benowa State High School.
- Support is provided through mentoring, training and education from nationally accredited and industry experienced coaches.
- A flexible and challenging three year program focussing on the development of the 'student athlete' with core elements including skills training, physiology, competition preparation, psychology, nutrition, time management, study skills and goal setting.
- The training students receive has not only assisted them to make Queensland and Australian teams, achieve personal bests in their events and win State and National Championships in a variety of sports, but also provides great support for pathways to employment and further education.

#### Entry Requirements:

The selection criterion for entry is based on a completed application form and an interview, fitness testing, and previous sporting achievements .

#### How to apply:

Application forms are available from the website and at the school office. For all enquiries and further information contact [enrolments@benowashs.eq.edu.au](mailto:enrolments@benowashs.eq.edu.au)

Please note: the school, in consultation with families, reserves the right to withdraw students from this program at any time.



## Contact Us

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